



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1719-MC-FFS

DATE: September 19, 2016

TO: Iowa Medicaid Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), and Indian Health Services (IHS)

APPLIES TO: Managed Care and Fee-for-Service

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Same Day Billing for Mental Health and Primary Care Services

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2016

Medicare Part B pays for reasonable and necessary integrated health care services when they are furnished on the same day, to the same patient, by the same professional or a different professional. This is regardless of whether the professionals are in the same or different locations.

Medicare and Medicaid provides same-day billing for integrated mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, and primary care health services that better address the needs of individuals, especially those with mental health and substance use conditions.

Encounters with more than one IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner on the same day, or multiple encounters with the same IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner on the same day, constitute a single HIS, RHC or FQHC visit and is payable as one visit.

- This policy applies regardless of the length or complexity of the visit, the number or type of practitioners seen, whether the second visit is a scheduled or unscheduled appointment, or whether the first visit is related or unrelated to the subsequent visit.
- This would include situations where a IHS, RHC or FQHC patient has a medically-necessary face-to-face visit with a IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner, and is then seen by another IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner, including a specialist, for further evaluation of the same condition on the same day, or is then seen by another IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner (including a specialist) for evaluation of a different condition on the same day.

Exceptions to the single encounter policy apply to the following circumstances only:

1. A patient is seen in the IHS, RHC or FQHC for a medical visit, leaves the IHS, RHC or FQHC, and subsequently suffers an illness or injury that requires additional diagnosis or treatment on the same day. An example would be if a patient sees an IHS, RHC or FQHC practitioner in the morning for a medical condition and later in the day has a fall and returns to the IHS, RHC or FQHC for treatment of their injury. The patient had two medical visits on the same day (2 billable visits).

- In this situation only, the IHS, RHC or FQHC would use modifier 59 on the subsequent claim to attest that the conditions being treated are totally unrelated (2 billable visits).
2. The patient has a medical visit and a mental health visit on the same day (2 billable visits).
 - In this situation when the member is receiving two different types of services on the same day the 59 modifier is not required.
 3. For RHCs only, the patient has his/her initial preventive physical exam (IPPE) and a separate medical and/or mental health visit on the same day (2 or 3 billable visits).

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.